

## Experimental teams paves way

By Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

*(Editor's note: To ensure the safety of soldiers and their mission in Gardez, not all of their names will be used.)*

**GARDEZ**, Afghanistan — “Now is the time to start beating the enemy at his own game — the winning of men’s minds, emotions and loyalty to the concepts that motivate us: freedom, justice, individual human rights, equality of opportunity and a higher living standard.”

These words were immortalized by Lt. Col. John T. Little when he spoke to his group of Special Forces soldiers at the beginning of the reconstruction phase of the Vietnam War.

Now is the time we have to begin the rebuilding of Afghanistan, said a Special Forces soldier, who is part of the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti

*Spc. John Huff, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment cleans his 50 caliber machine gun before going out on patrol.*

See **GARDEZ**, Page 3

## In Afghanistan, guns hold sway over law

*Despite a pro-Western government in place of the Taliban, warlords and their minions continue to control much of the country*

By Chris Kraul  
Los Angeles Times staff writer

*(Editor's note: This is part one of a two-part story.)*

**SEYAGERD**, Afghanistan — Obaidullah is watching his farm near this village in northern Afghanistan slowly wither and die. His orchard, which once numbered 350 trees, is down to 10. His fields, once filled with wheat and barley, are parched.

For years, the 46-year-old had survived even through patches of drought thanks to a centuries-old irrigation system based on sharing and community management. But he’s been left high and dry by armed thugs up-canal, who

have hijacked his water for their own cotton and rice crops.

There is no government agency or aid organization strong enough to intercede, and Obaidullah has no weapons for a fight.

“The problem isn’t people, it’s guns,” Obaidullah said of the neighbors who have blocked his access to water near this village 15 miles north of Mazar-i-Sharif. “If all the guns disappeared, we could go back to the old system. But as the situation stands, people are afraid even to talk about it.”

A new pro-Western government led by President Hamid Karzai has replaced the Taliban regime that was ousted more than



Photo by Spc. Karlene Hemerly-Fluck, 109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

*The distances between villages in Afghanistan makes it difficult for the new government to enforce their policies. Here a family travels on one of the major highways.*

a year ago, but much of the country remains a lawless place where “anyone with a gun is the government,” as one youth here put it.

Impoverished farmers such as

Obaidullah aren’t the only victims: His plight is just one example of how guns and the warlords who wield them are distorting the Afghan

— See **WARLORDS**, Page 4

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

## No 'smoking gun' in Iraq

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — The U.N. agency searching for evidence of a nuclear weapons program in Iraq said Monday that so far it has not found evidence of one.

Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said inspectors have found no proof that Iraq lied about nuclear weapons in its declaration on weapons of mass destruction presented to the United Nations.

Iraqi officials said the declaration stated that Iraq has no prohibited weapons.

ElBaradei said the agency's laboratory tests of samples taken in Iraq so far have found nothing suspicious.

There currently is no "smoking gun," ElBaradei said, but he noted that inspections are still in their early stages.

The IAEA is searching for nuclear weapons. The U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, or UNMOVIC, is searching for evidence of biological and chemical weapons and high-powered missiles.

The United States and Britain have said Iraq has weapons of mass destruction.

## Clone evaluator suspends work, says it may be hoax

**NEW YORK** — The science journalist who organized a team to evaluate claims of the birth of the first human clone has suspended his review and now says the announcement by Clonaid, a company tied to an unconventional religious sect, could be "part of an elaborate hoax."

"The team of scientists has had no access to the alleged family and, therefore, cannot verify firsthand the claim that a human baby has been cloned," said Michael Guillen in a written statement Monday.

"It's still entirely possible Clonaid's announcement is part of an elaborate hoax intended to bring publicity to the Raelian movement," he added.

Las Vegas-based Clonaid is linked to the Raelians, a religious group that believes space aliens came to Earth and began the human race through cloning.

## Bush to seek \$600 billion for economic boost

**WASHINGTON** — President Bush is to unveil an economic stimulus program

Tuesday that will call for eliminating taxes on stock dividends as well as providing \$3,000 payments to help unemployed people find new jobs, the White House said Monday.

The unemployed will be able to use the money to pay for job training, child care and moving expenses and would keep any balance if they find a job within 13 weeks of becoming eligible.

The White House put the cost of the program, which will cover 1.2 million people and will be administered by states, at \$3.6 billion.

Administration officials cast these "personal re-employment accounts" as an innovative way to help unemployed Americans find work — and said letting people keep the balance if they find work quickly would be an incentive to intensify their job searches.

In a speech in Chicago on Tuesday, Bush is expected to provide details of his stimulus plan, which the White House projects will cost \$600 billion over 10 years.

## Bin Laden aide urges attacks

**CAIRO, Egypt** — An e-mail purportedly from Osama bin Laden's top lieutenant, Ayman al-Zawahiri, calls for continued attacks against Americans and urges Muslim militants not to carry out attacks within Egypt.

The communication was received Monday by Montaser Al Zayat, a lawyer for Islamic Jihad and other Islamic groups in Egypt. Al Zayat said he sent an e-mail message four months ago through an Internet site, asking al-Zawahiri to discuss the attacks of September 11, 2001.

"Sir, please don't ask about that which ends with the promise of heaven. Don't stop new Muslims from taking up arms in jihad against America and killing them like they kill us," the message attributed to al-Zawahiri said.

"Let it be understood that operations carried out by Muslims will come with a price. Regardless of what that price is, they will continue."



Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

## Communication assistance excellence ...

*Twenty-five local interpreters await their Certificate of Achievement awards for their hard work over the past six months. According to Col. Christopher Pritchett, Bagram Air Base commander, these local nationals have been a great asset in helping the U.S. to communicate with the host nation.*



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti

*Co. D, 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, drive through the streets of Gardez on a security patrol.*

## **GARDEZ**, from Page 1

newly-implemented Provisional Reconstruction Team.

The PRT compound, located in Gardez, is designed to start the process of rebuilding Afghanistan..

The strategically located facility brings together civil affairs, psychological operations and a security element, said Maj. David Bernacki, Civil Military Operations Center officer in charge.

The future goal is to make a safe place for Non-governmental Organizations to come together to help in the rebuilding of this country, he added.

"The NGO's don't want to come here yet," Bernacki said. "They feel it is too dangerous. And that is where we come in."

The PRT is designed to do the legwork for the NGO's making their job safer and easier.

To ensure security, a task force from the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., is on lookout 24-hours.

"We guard and secure the compound," said 1st Lt. Shawn Few, Company D, 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

The unit will also establish a "storefront" in town where the NGOs can work safely.

Few describes his mission as challenging, because of the experimental conditions.

"Working with other kinds of forces presents an interesting dynamic," he said. "We normally don't work with them, so we are learning new things daily."

Missions within the compound vary, but one of the most important is interacting with the local community.

The CMOC attends a meeting once a week with Provincial Governor Qazi Raz Mohd "Dalili," to discuss projects to improve the Paktia province and its 12 districts.

"He is the person we want to make things happen," Bernacki said.

But Dalili cannot do it alone. He relies on the province's "graybeards," the religious elders of the region. Until Dalili has their approval, no projects start.

"It is a tradition that we as Americans do not understand. But this country puts a lot of faith and trust in their elders," Bernacki said.

The CMOC's role in the meetings is purely to introduce and set up the planning process.

"They are not familiar with the rigorous planning process of the U.S.," Bernacki said "We are there to help them understand the concept of long-term planning and to develop a long-term plan for their region and country."

Each meeting is attended not only by the governor and the U.S., but also the

department heads of the province. The department heads list the projects that need to be completed, and with the help of the U.S, the governor prioritizes them.

"Right now the locals rely on the U.S.," Bernacki said. "They see the projects that we are helping with and they think we will do everything for them. What our goal is, is to make the governor successful. We want the people to know that he can be relied on."

As of now the civil affairs teams have been into the city and have done assessments on upcoming projects.

"Right now we are the sole source of projects," said Capt. Clark Smith, officer in charge of a Category A, civil affairs team.

His team's mission is to assess the village for population and projects to improve the quality of life. Smith is currently managing 25 projects in the area.

"We are not the rebuilders, the people of Gardez are. We are here to help them get started and pave the way for the NGOs," Bernacki said.

When the NGO's arrive, the civil affairs unit will pass on their information to help them get started.

Raising their standard of living is only part of the battle. Winning their hearts and minds is another intricate and crucial part of the PRT mission.

The Tactical Psychological Operations Team constantly goes into the city looking for enemy propaganda and then counteracts it.

"We make sure that the people in the city are fully aware of why we are there and what we are doing," said a member of the TPT.

The team makes use of the local radio station as well as puts out a newspaper for the town.

"We have a good rapport with the locals and it has helped our mission," the TPT member said.

Bernacki said he is pleased with the initial outcome of the PRT.

"It is good to see all of these different people working together," he said. "This mission should not only be successful to the U.S., but Afghanistan as well."

If all goes well, the PRT in Gardez will be a model for others to come.



## WARLORD, from Page 3

economy, obstructing the role of government and impeding the delivery of relief and reconstruction aid.

For more than 20 years, guns poured into the country as foreign-backed rebel groups fought the Soviet occupation and then the Taliban. Now, those militias find themselves as the de facto government outside the capital, Kabul.

The U.S. and other nations are training a new Afghan army and police force, but they are at least two years from effective deployment. So the Karzai government has little means of injecting itself into disputes like Obaidullah's.

Filling the vacuum are warlords and thousands of their armed minions. Their primacy over civil authority and the rule of law has myriad implications here.

Ministers in the Karzai administration are increasingly frustrated that warlords are collecting tens of millions of dollars in taxes and import duties at the country's principal ports of entry, money the government desperately needs to finance its budget.

In an interview, Mohammed Amin Farhang, the minister of reconstruction, said the government is powerless even to collect customs duties on imported air freight arriving at Kabul's airport or on goods entering the capital by land at the main truck depot, because militiamen control those key locations.

"A central government that cannot get the country's income itself cannot be called a complete government and will not have its national sovereignty," Farhang said.

In northern Afghanistan, the situation is particularly acute. The region's principal border crossings are controlled by three powerful warlords: Atta Mohammed, Abdul Rashid Dostum and Mohammed Sardar Sayedi. All are former militia leaders who helped oust the Taliban but who still lead armed troops.

But it is clear that the three are more responsive to their group's interests than those of the nation at large.

Warlord Mohammed said in an interview that his militia will share the revenue he collects with the government after it shows what it can do for the northern provinces.

"Of course, the central government is entitled to collect the revenue as long as they consider our needs," he said.

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## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530 Z at the MWR building: "Blade II." Reapers, a new breed of vampire that feed off humans and vampires, emerge with plans for world domination and Blade must team with the Bloodpack, an elite team of vampire warriors specifically trained to hunt him, in order to defeat this new menace.

Tomorrow's movie will be "The Deep End."



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	Partly cloudy H: 52F L: 21F	Haze H: 54F L: 21F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Clear H: 66F L: 36F	Partly Cloudy H: 61F L: 37F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Partly cloudy H: 46F L: 23F	Haze H: 46F L: 23F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Mostly cloudy H: 50F L: 35F	Mostly cloudy H: 40F L: 30F

*Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

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CJTF-180 Commander —

Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill

CJTF-180 Command Sergeant Major —

Command Sgt. Maj. Steven R. England

Public Affairs Officer —

Col. Roger King

Public Affairs Sergeant Major —

Master Sgt. Kelly Tyler

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Commander — Maj. William Mott

NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti

Editor — Sgt. W. Cullen James

Journalists — Pfc. Debralee P.

Crankshaw, Pfc. Christina Carde

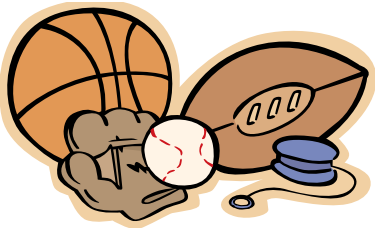
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To be added to the daily distribution list email [william.james@us.army.mil](mailto:william.james@us.army.mil)



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## Lett sparks key Panthers' run in rout

**PITTSBURGH** — The main criticism of (No. 5 ESPN/USA Today, No. 6 AP) Pittsburgh all season has been that the Panthers haven't beaten a quality opponent. No one can say that now.

Ontario Lett scored 10 straight points to start Pittsburgh's comeback in the first half, then used his size and muscle to power a 16-0 run in the second half as the Panthers overwhelmed (No. 6 ESPN/USA Today, No. 5 Notre Dame) 72-55 Monday night.

"I was sick to my gut all day about this game," Pitt coach Ben Howland said. "I'm relieved this is over."

Notre Dame, denied its fourth victory over a Top Ten opponent, was held scoreless for nearly nine minutes as Pitt turned a 42-38 deficit into a 54-42 lead with 9:12 remaining. The Irish had only two field goals, both 3-pointers, over the final 16½ minutes.

"Defense and rebounding wins games," Howland said. "Our guys are proud of the way they play defense."

## Blue Devils move up from number 3

Duke jumped to No. 1 in The Associated Press Top 25 Monday, joining the Blue Devils' women atop the rankings. Connecticut is the only other school to have held the top spots simultaneously.

Another milestone for Duke's men: This is the sixth consecutive season they have reached No. 1. Only UCLA's dynasty of the 1960s and 1970s had a longer run of seasons with at least one appearance atop the men's poll — 12 straight.

"We don't really pay attention to our No. 1 ranking," Duke forward Dahntay Jones said. "We just make sure we get better on a weekly basis, and whatever you rank us is whatever you rank us."

The Blue Devils moved up from No. 3, taking advantage of losses last week by the teams ahead of them, Alabama and Pittsburgh.

Duke (9-0), which beat Fairfield and Clemson, received 54 first-place votes and 1,778 points from the national media panel.

Arizona (9-1), No. 1 in the preseason poll and for the first five weeks of the regular season, moved from fourth to second. The Wildcats, who won at Oregon and Oregon State, were No. 1 on 15 ballots and had 1,714 points.

Connecticut (9-0) climbed two spots to No. 3 — the same spot

its women's team holds — and received one first-place vote.

Alabama (10-1), No. 1 the last two weeks, dropped to fourth after a 51-49 loss at Utah. Notre Dame went from sixth to fifth, while Pittsburgh dropped from second to sixth because of a 79-67 loss at Georgia.

Mississippi State (10-1) had the two other first-place votes and was No. 7. Texas, Oklahoma and Illinois rounded out the Top 10.

## Bynum can transfer, eligible for part of next season

**TUCSON, Ariz.** — Unhappy Arizona point guard Will Bynum was released at his own request Monday from his scholarship obligations.

With the release, the 5-foot-11 sophomore will be able to transfer to another school and be eligible for part of next season. Bynum is disgruntled because of his dwindling playing time this season for the second-ranked Wildcats.

Bynum reportedly was interested in Cincinnati and DePaul, near his native Chicago, as well as Mississippi State and Oklahoma State. His decision was expected after he refused to accompany the Wildcats on a road trip last week.

He started nine of Arizona's 31 games last season, averaging 18.8 minutes. But that dropped to two starts and an average of 16.6 minutes this season.

The emergence of freshman point guard Chris Rodgers, whom coach Lute Olson considers a better defender, cut into Bynum's playing time, and he saw little opportunity at shooting

guard because of the return of starter Salim Stoudamire and the strong play of freshman Hassan Adams.

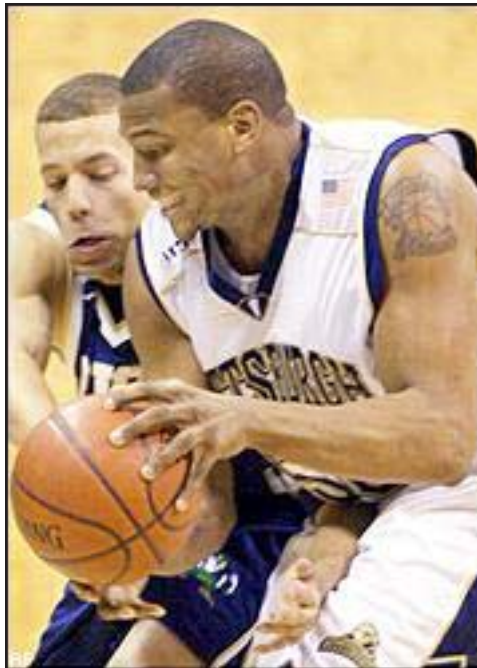
Bynum averaged 7.8 points, 2.8 rebounds and 1.5 assists in eight games this season, up from 6.4 points, 1.5 rebounds and 1.4 assists as a freshman.

## Winston should return Wednesday

Alabama freshman forward Kennedy Winston on Monday was cleared to play after sitting out the first 11 games of the season, sources told ESPN.com.

The school is expected to officially announce his eligibility Tuesday, and Winston should be back Wednesday's game against Arkansas.

The NCAA and Alabama cleared Winston after they investigated funds allegedly funneled to him prior to enrolling at Alabama. The funds had no connection with Alabama, but dealt with his



*Pittsburgh's Ontario Lett, right, was too strong inside for the Irish*



## SPORTS, from Page 5

summer basketball program.

Winston is expected to have a major impact for the Tide and could jump into the starting lineup within a few games. He'll likely take minutes away from Terrance Meade, Earnest Shelton and Emmett Thomas, all of who are shooting under 31 percent on 3s.

The 6-foot-7 Winston sat out 11 games for his penalty.

Alabama coach Mark Gottfried said Winston was one of the best scorers he had coached after watching him the last two months in practice, and expects Winston to solve some of Alabama's perimeter shooting problems.

Winston originally signed with California out of high school, but got out of his national letter of intent last spring. He was given a waiver by the National Letter of Intent Committee to play at Alabama before the NCAA and the school opened an investigation.

Freshman forward Lucky Williams will also return to the Tide when they travel to Auburn on Jan. 18. Williams will have sat out 14 games for a similar offense.

## Mississippi State's night to shine

Don't miss the Florida-Mississippi State game Tuesday night on ESPN (**Wednesday, 0200Z, AFN-Sports**). Sure, it's a great SEC matchup, but it's also one of the rare national television appearances by the Bulldogs this season.

At least, until March.

The eighth-ranked Bulldogs make their only appearance on ESPN this season when they host the Gators (ESPN, 9 ET) as the second half of a Super Tuesday doubleheader that starts with Illinois at Minnesota (ESPN, 7 ET). Talk about a major snafu



*Ignerski and the Bulldogs are 10-1 heading into the SEC.*

here at the Worldwide leader. Forget the ratings that may or may not come out of Starkville, Miss. The reality is MSU could be playing in New Orleans come April.

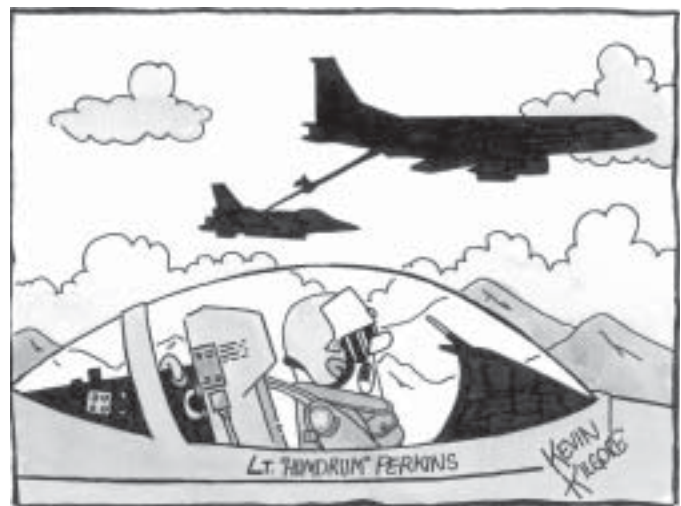
What you'll see, if you tune in, is one of the top defensive teams in the country. The Bulldogs have held seven of their last eight opponents to 61 points or less, and on the season, are holding foes to 58.8 points a game on just 36.6-percent shooting.

Florida may present MSU one of the toughest offensive challenges in the SEC (the Gators average just under 80 points a game). But no more than their latest marquee matchups against Xavier and Oklahoma. Oh, and the Bulldogs won both of those games rather convincingly.

"We like our position," Mississippi State coach Rick Stansbury said. "Our team has a lot of confidence right now."



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By Kevin Kilgore

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